

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 186836
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STR:SLANDE (TELEPHONE)

EA:AGEBER

-----042089 250001Z /75

O 242315Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ASEAN

SUBJECT: TRADE AND THE ASEAN MINISTERIAL

1. THE TIMING OF THE ASEAN-U.S. MINISTERIAL OFFERS A
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
ON TRADE ISSUES AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE OF THE MTN.

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PAGE 02 STATE 186836

CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN GENEVA IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ASEAN MEMBER STATES.
RATHER THAN RESTRICTING THE MINISTERIAL AGENDA TO A REVIEW OF WHAT HAS ALREADY OCCURRED IN GENEVA, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE MEETING PROVIDE A FORUM IN WHICH SUBSTANTIAL FURTHER PROGRESS ON MTN ISSUES MIGHT BE MADE. TO THIS END, THE U.S. DELEGATION WILL BE PREPARED TO SUBSTANTIALLY DISCUSS

MTN ISSUES AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE DELEGATIONS FROM EACH OF THE ASEAN STATES WOULD ALSO INCLUDE MEMBERS WITH AUTHORITY OVER MTN DECISIONS.

2. TO FACILITATE SUCH A DISCUSSION ON MTN ISSUES, WE PROPOSE THAT TRADE NEGOTIATORS FROM EACH OF THE ASEAN STATES AND THE US MEET IN WASHINGTON CONCURRENT WITH THE MINISTERIAL. THE MINISTERS WOULD DISCUSS THE SAME GENERAL

ISSUES WITH AMBASSADOR WOLFF. US MTN NEGOTIATOR FOR ASEAN, LANCE GRAEF, WILL BE IN WASHINGTON FOR THE MINISTERIAL.

3. THE UNITED STATES WOULD HOPE THAT THE NEGOTIATION IN WASHINGTON WOULD FOCUS ON (1) A PRODUCT SPECIFIC DISCUSSION CENTERING ON OFFERS AND REQUESTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE IN GENEVA INCLUDING BINDINGS, (2) THE SUBSTANCE AND STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON NTM CODES, AND (3) GATT MEMBERSHIP IN THE CASES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THAILAND. WE WOULD HOPE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WRAP UP THE SPECIFIC BILATERAL ASPECTS OF US/ASEAN NEGOTIATIONS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY MANILA IS REQUESTED TO CONVEY THE FOREGOING TO MR. VALDEPENAS AND MRS. MANALO AND URGENTLY SEEK AN EARLY ASEAN RESPONSE. CONSIDERING THE TIME PRESSURES AND IMPORTANCE OF OUR PROPOSALS THE OTHER ACTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 186836

ADDRESSEES SHOULD INFORMALLY BRING THE CONTENTS OF THE MESSAGE TO THE ATTENTION OF KEY HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, SEEK THEIR SUPPORT AND REPORT ANY REACTION. QUICK RESPONSE IS NEEDED TO FACILITATE OUR PREPARATIONS. (MANILA INFORM MRS. MANALO WE WILL BE SUPPORTING OUR PROPOSAL IN CAPITALS.)

VANCE

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